

Response under 37 CFR §1.116
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 09/420,806
Attorney Docket No.: 991206

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A digital camera for performing continuous shots of a subject with different exposures, comprising:

- a signal generator for generating a timing signal;
- a first register for holding exposure data;
- a timing generator for causing exposure according to exposure data held in said first register in response to said timing signal;
- an instruction key for instructing for a continuous shot operation; and
- a processor for starting to count said timing signal in response to an instruction of said instruction key, and performing an update process to update said exposure data held in said first register in a first predetermined timing.

Claim 2 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 1, further comprising an image sensor to create charges corresponding to a subject image, wherein said timing generator controls a charge storage period on said image sensor according to said exposure data held in said first register.

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Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said processor starting to count said timing signal in response to said instruction of said instruction key and performs a recording process to record shot image data obtained by said exposure in a second predetermined timing.

Claim 4 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 3, wherein said update process includes a first detecting process to detect said first predetermined timing based on said timing signal, a set process to set succeeding exposure data in said first register in said first predetermined timing, and a retreat process to retreat current exposure data from said first register to a second register prior to setting said succeeding exposure data; and said recording process including a second detection process to detect said second predetermined timing based on said timing signal, and a data recording process to record current shot image data obtained due to exposure according to said current exposure data and said current exposure data retreated in said second register in said second predetermined timing.

Claim 5 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 4, wherein said data recording process includes a compression process to compress said current shot image data, and a file creating process to create within a recording medium a current image file accommodating current compressed image data created by said compression process and said current exposure data.

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Claim 6 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 5, wherein said processor further performs a calculation process to calculate a current compression ratio based on a preceding compression ratio upon compressing preceding shot image data and a data size of preceding compressed image data, and a storing process to store current compression ratio data representative of said current compression ratio into a third register, wherein said compression process performs compression on said current shot image data according to said current compression ratio data stored in said third register.

Claim 7 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 6, wherein said file creating process is to accommodate in said current image file said current compression ratio data stored in said third register in addition to said current compressed image data and said current exposure data.

Claim 8 (Original): A digital camera according to claim 1, wherein said processor performs an adjustment process of said exposure over a predetermined period after ending said continuous shots.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A digital camera which continuously shoots a subject with different exposures, comprising:

a single signal generator for periodically generating a timing signal;
a first register for holding exposures exposure data;
a timing generator for periodically causing exposure according to the exposure data held in

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said first register, in response to the timing signal; and

 a processor for updating the exposure data held in said first register, at a first predetermined timing by counting the timing signal.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 9, further comprising an image sensor to create charges corresponding to a subject image, wherein said timing generator controls a charge storage period on said image sensor according to the exposure data held in said first register.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A digital camera according to claim 9, wherein said processor records shot image data obtained by the exposure, at a second predetermined timing by counting the timing signal.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A digital camera according to claim 9, wherein said processor adjusts the exposure over a predetermined period after ending continuous shots.